Remarks

Reconsideration of this Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims in this application should be grouped together in fewer groups than set forth in the Restriction Requirement. Evidence for this contention is as follows. Claim 9 is dependent upon claim 6 in Group I. If claim 6 is found allowable, then claim 9 should be allowable as well. In like manner, claims 15-18 are dependent upon claim 7 of Group I. If claim 7 is found to be allowable than claims 15-18 should be allowable as well. Thus applicants respectfully request issuance of a new Restriction Requirement with fewer independent

A prompt and favorable examination on the merits of the elected claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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groups of claims.